

Inside and Outside

The idea of Inside and Outside comes from the traditional architecture of Iranian houses being made of brick tessellations on the outer side and plasters, layers on layers, on the inner side with murals, mirrors and other delicate details on them. Handmade clay bricks to make the walls, the parts you see them while passing the streets; and handmade plaster and mirror decorations inside the houses, the parts you see them if and if you are invited and allowed to go inside; all attractive, all durable and weather resistant for hundreds of years will eventually fall into ruins or at least partial disrepair no matter how hard you try to avoid natural disasters, weathering or scavenging. For me, houses are HUMANS; time passing so fast dominating everything is LIFE, what happens in those houses is LIVING and at last, as nothing can remain intact in the claws of time, comes the ruins which is DEATH. We come to this world with no choice, we pass by each other, we see each other from outside, rough or smooth, weak or strong, ugly or beautiful, attractive or unattractive, but what are the chances to get to know each other deeply enough to see the inside? We live, happily or miserably, in hope or despair, healthy or in pain, for a moment or for decades, but at the end death is waiting for us in a corner, unavoidable and irreversible.

Every day New houses get built in one part while the old or inadequate ones go to rack and ruin in the other parts. Each day babies are born around the world while old or young, sick or healthy ones die conversely. Some houses disappear with no single trace while still fragments of walls of the other ones remain. Some people die and get forgotten like they never existed while some die and leave behind pieces of memories which can never be forgotten.

I have used clay bricks, gypsum plaster, acrylic painting colors, mirror, thread, stainless steel and 925 silver to make necklaces and brooches resembling fragments of ruined walls. The walls have been made as exactly as the way workers build them. Ancient Iranian stucco and mirrorwork (Ayeneh-kari) have been applied for decorating the internal parts. But I have mostly employed techniques, methods and patterns which used to be practiced about 500 years ago in Safavid dynasty when and where carved stucco and painting of birds, flower and plants were common medium of ornamentation while mirrorwork was added to them by assembling thousands of finely hand cut mirror facets in different geometrical or foliage forms to make shining and glittering walls reflecting light. For the metal structure, not polished and not metal plated silver has been soldered together to make it as primitive and unsophisticated as possible. Color changing of the silver, peeling paint, fading, cracks in the bricks, falling of mirrors although happen by passing time or by physical damage, are characteristics of the materials and the walls itself which have been deliberately used to demonstrate the characteristic of us, human beings.